

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Holy Eucharist
December 24, 2025 • 4:00 p.m.

Christ Church
Alexandria, Virginia

118 N. WASHINGTON ST. ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

www.HistoricChristChurch.org

Welcome to Historic Christ Church!

We are so glad you joined us to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Your presence is a gift.

If you are searching for a faith community, we hope you will consider making Christ Church your spiritual home. Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith. All are welcome at Christ Church, no exceptions.

Please scan the QR code below to fill out our online Welcome Card. We would love to welcome you personally and share more information about this wonderful place.



This service is particularly suited for children and their families with familiar Christmas hymns and approachable language. Children are always welcome in worship here.

The Parish House, located across the churchyard, houses restrooms, our staffed nursery, and the unstaffed Infant Caring Room. For restrooms, enter the double doors and turn left. For the nursery and Infant Caring Room, turn right up the short staircase and follow the posted signs. The staffed nursery offers childcare for children six and under, while the Infant Caring Room provides space for parents to tend to children's needs.

Cover art for this bulletin was created by Freya Montes de Oca, one of Christ Church's beloved middle schoolers.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The People stand.

HYMN 83, VERSES 1, 2, 6

Adeste Fidelis

Celebrant: Alleluia! Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You have come to your people and set them free. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 96

Gloria

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: O God, you have caused this holy evening to shine with the brightness of the true Light: help us, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, to also enjoy him perfectly in heaven, where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

THE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

HYMN 109, VERSES 1, 2, 6

The First Nowell

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20 CEB

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days, Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

Ariel Rudy, Director of Children's Ministries

The People stand and say

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The People stand or kneel.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Intercessor concludes each petition "Loving God,"

People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

You are invited to greet your neighbor with a sign of peace like a handshake, hug, high five, peace sign, or wave.

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME

This year's Christmas offering will support the mission and ministry of Christ Church, allowing us to further our outreach and share God's love both here in Alexandria and abroad.

To donate via PayPal:



To donate via Shelby:



OFFERTORY HYMN 99

Go Tell It on the Mountain

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

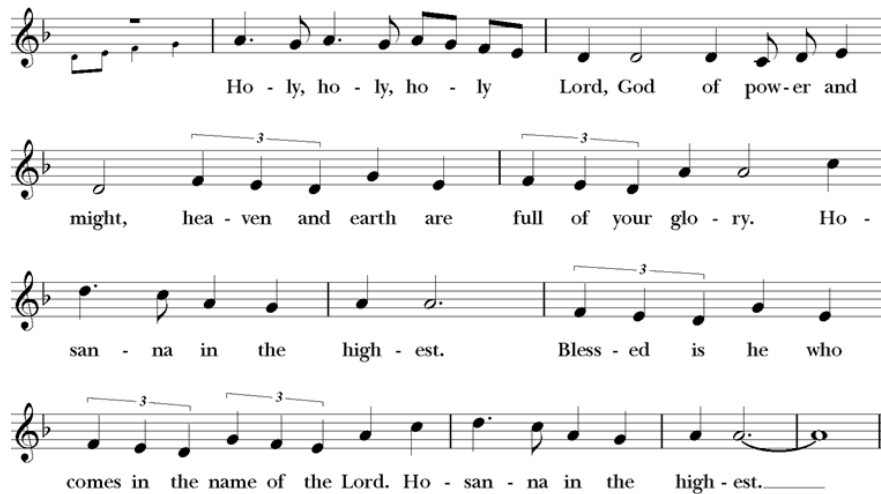
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Holy God, we thank you for everything you have given us...For all this we thank you and praise you, singing:

SANCTUS S-129

Powell



Celebrant: On the night before he died, Jesus sat at the table with his friends...We now offer this bread, this wine, and ourselves at this table in faith remembering that:

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We ask that your Holy Spirit come to this table and fill this bread and this cup with God's powerful love that can make all things new. We pray that we, too, will be filled with the Spirit and joined together as one people, blessed and filled with hope. We pray this, giving honor and praise to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: **AMEN.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

To receive communion, please follow the direction of the ushers to the chancel rail.

Upon placing your hands forward, you will receive a wafer. You may consume it and then sip wine from the chalice or hold onto the wafer and the chalice-bearer will intinct (dip) it for you. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister administering the bread. If you do not wish to receive either element, you may cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

HYMN 101

Cradle Song

HYMN 112

Cranham

HYMN 102

Irby

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN 100

Antioch

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School | Fowler House | 9:00 a.m.

We will not have Sunday School on December 28 or January 4. Sunday School will resume on January 11. All children age three and up are welcome, and children can join mid year!

One Sock On | Fowler House Room 103 | 9:00 a.m.

One Sock On, our fellowship group for parents of infants and toddlers, takes place at the same time as Sunday School. Join other parents of young children to share the trials and triumphs of raising tiny Christians!

Children's Chapel | Church to Chapel | 10:00 a.m.

We will not have Children's Chapel on December 28. Children's Chapel will resume January 4. This service begins with an invitation from Ms. Ariel at the lectern in the big church during the 10:00 a.m. service. In Children's Chapel, kids experience their own version of the liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. We have a special children's sermon, prayers of the people, and more. All are welcome, and children younger than five should be accompanied by a parent until they are comfortable with the service.

Sign Up for Children's News

The monthly Children's News newsletter is distributed every month on the first or last Friday, depending on the calendar. This newsletter includes updates on what Sunday Schoolers are learning about, exciting opportunities for children in the life of the church, ways to explore faith at home, and more. You can sign up to receive Children's News at www.historicchristchurch.org/stay-in-touch.

*The liturgy above closely follows Holy Eucharist Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.
The Eucharistic prayer is from "Rhythms of Grace" by The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan and Linda Snyder. Church
Publishing, New York. 2010.*

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL GIFTS

In honor of

The Christ Church Facilities Assistants

Gerry Stacy

Jason Abel and the Choir

McKinley Jolly

Ashley Jolly

In memory of

Charles & Delza Chadbourn

Leon & Margareet Stroud

Elizabeth Stacy

Bruce Denslow

William Brooke Power

Jack & Jo Burns

Robert & Marcia Thomson

Carolyn Burns Mills

Ruth Wilson Salmon

Pauline Wilson Shaver

Ruth Ann Mahood

Margaret Fitch

Margo Fitch

Frances Wells

Jean Wells

Sherm Broka

Michael Murray

Ronald Albers

Robert Broka

Carroll Dority

Robert Allen Smith

Nick Wasilewski

Donald L. & Elinor W. Dickson

Harry L. & Mary W. Rudolph

Brianna Jolly

Mary & Virgil Baird

Jacqueline & James Dinwiddie

Fay Weirich

George & Cora Halwig



PARISH LIFE • CHRISTMAS 2025



Welcome to Christ Church

We are delighted you are here for Christmas worship, whether it is your first or 1,000th time here. For over 250 years, people have come to Christ Church to be nourished and encouraged on their spiritual journey—people of all walks of life, occupation, and age, from your neighbor across the street to archbishops and civil rights leaders, presidents and first ladies. Today, Christ Church is an active, vibrant parish with ministries that strive to inspire the soul, educate, and form spiritual seekers, deepen the bonds of friendship, and meet the needs of a hurting world. We hope you will explore some of the many ways to get involved and come again to share the joy at Christ Church! If you are new to Christ Church, please fill out a welcome card, which can also be scanned via QR code in your bulletin. Restrooms can be found on the first floor of Memorial Parish Hall, located across the churchyard. God's blessings be with you this Christmas and always!

OUTREACH & MISSION

Christ Church offers many ways to serve Christ by helping those in need in our community and around the world. Make a difference by helping our neighbors in Alexandria through parish-wide efforts or in small-group ministries, from one day a year to weekly time commitments. Here are just a few of many opportunities to get involved:

- The Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry provides emergency financial assistance to help Alexandrian's with rent, utilities, and medical bills.
- The Lazarus Food Pantry offers a large variety of groceries that our guests select for themselves, including fresh vegetables, meat, eggs, fish, and non-perishables.
- Our parishioners regularly cook and serve dinner to the residents of Carpenter's Shelter, prepare bag lunches at Meade Memorial Church for those in need, and volunteer with Meals on Wheels to serve homebound seniors in Alexandria.
- Our Refugee Ministry assists refugee families in Alexandria with emergency needs and long-term support to adjust to living in the Alexandria community.

Our Mission ministries reach out beyond local borders:

- We are partners with Mengo HIV/AIDS Clinic in Uganda. We provide financial support for operations and friendship and fellowship with the staff.
- We are in the process of exploring interest at Christ Church in revitalizing our mission partnership with Our Little Roses (OLR) Home for Girls in Honduras. OLR offers a home and school for girls who have been abandoned or abused, and who lived in extreme poverty.

These are just some of the opportunities to serve others locally and abroad. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Melanie Gray, Director of Outreach & Mission, at mgray@HistoricChristChurch.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

At Christ Church, we believe our spiritual journey extends through the whole of our lives, deepened and enriched by means of adult education experiences such as:

- Lecture and discussion forums at 9:00 a.m. on (most) Sunday mornings.
- Covenant Class is a ten-week class for those new to Christianity, the Episcopal Church, Christ Church, or those who have questions about the journey of faith. Sign up for the Spring class dates by emailing Jessica Williams at jessicavilliams@gmail.com.
- Leaning into Lectionary is a small group discussion on the Sunday lectionary, at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Library.
- Education for Ministry (EFM) are four-year programs that deeply explore the Bible, Christian history, and theology. For more information, please contact Tom Hahn as tshahn1@aol.com.

For information on adult education or small group ministries, contact the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons Rector, at rector@HistoricChristChurch.org.

WORSHIP

It takes a village to offer worship. Volunteers serve in many ways: acolytes, chancel chapter, chalice bearers, choir members, greeters, readers, and ushers. Christ Church has three opportunities for Sunday worship:

- Our 8:00 a.m. service is Rite I (traditional language for the prayers). The service includes two sung hymns, Holy Communion, and a short sermon that reflects on the readings for the day.
- The 10:00 a.m. service is Rite II (contemporary language for the prayers). It features our choirs, all of the readings appointed for the day, hymns, a sermon, and Holy Communion. During the sermon, we offer a chance for our young children to attend a special Children's Chapel. Children aged three through third grade are welcome to go to Children's Chapel, leaving the church just prior to the Gospel reading and returning for Communion. Led by the Director of Children's Ministries, this service includes a children's sermon, prayers of the people, a short confession, and more!
- Our 5:00 p.m. service is quieter, with Holy Communion using the Rite II language. A brief sermon is offered, along with special prayers of healing for those who request it. On the first Sunday of the month, from October to May, Choral Evensong, a service of Bible readings and prayers, is sung by our choir.

If you would be interested in serving in a volunteer capacity to assist us in our worship, please contact the Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector, at rector@HistoricChristChurch.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children, Youth and Family Ministries are an integral part of life at Christ Church.

Each Sunday, children aged three through fifth grade and youth, sixth grade through eighth grade, meet in the Fowler House from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School. They share stories, sing songs, create art, pray, and play as they learn more about God and each other. Confirmation class meets at this same time in the Teen Center of the Fowler House. The One Sock On group meets from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Fowler House, providing fellowship and support for parents with children under age three.

To learn more about Children, Youth, and Family Ministries or to find ways to get involved visit www.HistoricChristChurch.org/children-and-youth or contact Ariel Rudy, Director of Children's Ministries, at arudy@HistoricChristChurch.org or Robbie Laughton, at youth@HistoricChristChurch.org.

MUSIC

There are three choirs which provide music for this parish. Nearly 75 singers come together for rehearsals to offer inspiring music ranging from the 15th century to the modern day. There are two children's choirs—beginning at age four. We teach music fundamentals as well as offering the children an artistic opportunity to praise God. Research overwhelmingly shows the positive impact of exposing children to music at a young age, and we are eager to share this opportunity here at Christ Church. We welcome singers of all ages! For further information, contact M. Jason Abel, Director of Music at jabel@HistoricChristChurch.org.

CHRIST CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24 through Thursday January 1—offices closed.

GIFT SHOP

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Tuesday–Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 703.836.5258

All proceeds benefit Outreach in the Alexandria community and globally

Did you know that all profits from the Gift Shop go to charities and outreach ministries? Thanks to our volunteers, we are open six days a week, and often have prices that are lower than stores and catalogs. Come back and take a look – your local charity will thank you!

The Gift Shop will re-open after Christmas

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit www.HistoricChristChurch.org/get-involved for more information about these and other opportunities.

LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith | 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

First and Third Thursday of the month | Library

LGBTQ+ parishioners gather every first and third Thursday for conversation about the relationship between their spiritual journeys and their coming out journeys. Through prayerful study of scripture in a safe, open, and loving space, we will seek a deeper understanding of our faith, our lived experiences, and our relationship with Jesus. For more information, please contact Terry Brown at terrymbrown1@me.com.

Sunday School

We will not have Sunday School December 28 or January 4. Sunday School will resume on January 11.

Children's Chapel

We will not have Children's Chapel on December 28. Children's Chapel will resume on January 4.

Dinner Church | January 7

The first Wednesday of the month means Dinner Church! From 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, we will offer a special dinner for everyone. There will be a short "Service of Word and Table" during dinner for everyone to participate in together, and a special craft corner for kids.

Save the Date: Christ Church Pilgrimage to Turkey

October 9-26, 2026

The Dean of Virginia Seminary, The Very Rev Ian Markham, and Rev Noelle will be leading a trip to walk in the footsteps of apostles and to learn up close about the rise of early Christianity. Dean Markham will lead an adult forum at Christ Church on February 15 to introduce the themes and questions for the pilgrimage. Contact Noelle for more information.

Monday Concert Series | March 9 | 12:15 p.m.

Second Monday of the Month | March through May

The series resumes in March with 4-Hand Piano works by Mozart, Schubert, and Barber; featuring Sean Burns and Jason Abel. There is no admission for these concerts, though we hope audience members will support the series with a goodwill donation of any amount (suggested amount: \$10). These 45-minute programs include solo performers and chamber musicians based in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The full schedule is here:

www.historicchristchurch.org/music

BLESSINGS ON

- All who made Christ Child a success: Grace Carry, Aaron Harmon, Allison Harmon, Katie Hostetler, James Hughes, Ellie Levanto, Noah Levanto, Boden Nelson, Henry Mills, Freya Montes de Oca, Henry Trigg; Amy Bacon, Erika Basto-Eyzaguirre, Beth Beyer, Bill Chin, Claire Chow, Ginny Doherty, Paul Doherty, Julie Duke, Claudia Ellett, Alan Harman, Claire Haymes, Kathleen Hickman, John Hill, Karen Hill, Darrin Hostetler, Erin Hostetler, Kelley Brooke Hostetler, Jack Hutcheson, Mary Dixon Hutcheson, Denise Jean-Claude, Anne Land, Brett Levanto, Holly Levanto, Andrea McNicholas, Jenna Meyer, Blakely Mulder, Leslie O'Sullivan, Anne Ramsey, Meredith Richard, Bill Schaufler, Carol Shull, Joe Shull, Bob Thomson, Sandra Thomson, Elizabeth Trigg, Christy Wyckoff, Barbara Zeigler.
- All who donated funds to make the Christ Child Ministry happen in 2025.